



**Training Partnerships for Prevention, Protection and Preparedness:  
A Conference to Build Stronger Partnerships On Disaster Response Training**

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## MEETING NOTES FROM BREAKOUT 1: FEDERAL AND TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

**Thursday, April 22**

### **Breakout 1: Federal and Tribal Partnerships**

*Moderator - Alan Veasey, Program Director, Workplace Safety Training, University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB)*

The purpose of this breakout session was to share federal and tribal partnerships that have successfully provided health and safety training to underrepresented populations. The training topics included hazardous materials, incident management, and WMD response. Effective outreach materials were reviewed.

April Sells, Wellness and Activities Director from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians explained her partnership with UAB and how it benefits counties in Alabama that surround her reservation. UAB uses NIEHS grant funding to provide training to the Poarch Creeks, who then used either their own tribal funds or federal funds routed through the State of Alabama.

Her tribal community has a lot to offer the surrounding communities. They have a large fire department, very well trained individuals, and equipment counties may not have. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians consolidates and shares resources with the nearby counties. They also train personnel in nearby counties thanks to the funding from UAB. She emphasized that communities should look into partnering with nearby tribal communities. The best way to do so is to contact the "Chief or Tribal Chair."

John Kovatch discussed the partnerships the Operating Engineers National Hazmat Program (OENHP) has with the DHS, the chemical industry, MSHA, Energy Assurance Technical Training and Awareness Program, Human Factors Assessment Program, Orange County Florida Sheriff's Association, OSHA, NIOSH, West Virginia Army National Guard and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

In response to a question, it was noted that one way to get tribes to understand the value of training or to get imbedded into a tribal council is to contact the EPA office of tribal affairs or the ATSDR office of Tribal Affairs. It was also noted that there are more than 300 federal tribes in the U.S. You must be patient due to their traditions that may make an impact on their interactions. You must develop a relationship with tribal leaders and get to know the leaders before you start talking business.